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A new portable apparatus for sterilizing eye instruments &c

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Reprinted from the New York Medical Journal
for November 11, 1893.

A NEW PORTABLE APPARATUS FOR STERILIZING EYE INSTRUMENTS BY BOILING IN WATER.

AN ALUMINIUM SHIELD FOR PROTECTING THE EYE AFTER CATARACT EXTRACTION.

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The apparatus figured here is intended to serve a useful purpose in sterilizing eye instruments by boiling in water, especially when important operations are done at the homes of patients. The apparatus occupies so little space that it can readily be carried in a small satchel, and is at all times ready for use.

Fig. A represents a ground plan of the entire apparatus. 1 is the outer box for containing the boiler (2) and tray (3), the latter with a rack and perforated bottom, for receiving the instruments. The boiler (2) has its own cover; it is intended for the instruments only. It is therefore quite distinct from the other things in the outer case—*i. e.*, lamp, bottles, etc.—the outer case being merely intended to keep everything together.

Fig. B represents the entire apparatus inclosed in its case.

Fig. C shows the tray in the boiler, in place over the lamp, ready for use.

Fig. D shows the bottle used for solutions of cocaine, atropine, and one-per-cent. chloride of sodium. The latter solu-

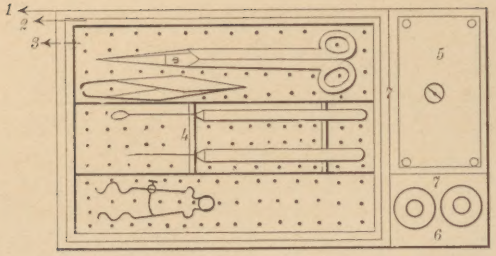

FIG. A

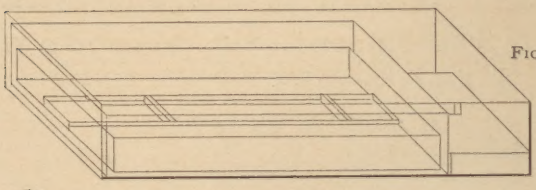

FIG. B

FIG. D

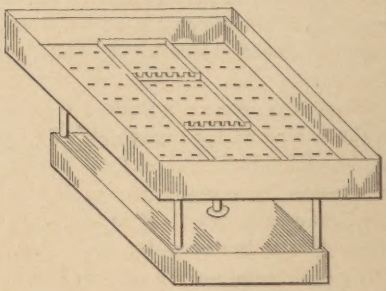

FIG. C

FIG. D.—1, Hollow ground stopper drawn out into a tube which terminates in a smooth curved point at 2. The rubber nipple, 3, serves to draw up and inject the fluid contained in the bottle. The ground stopper, 4, closes the hollow stopper, 1, and prevents the fluid in the bottle from becoming contaminated by contact with the rubber nipple, 3, when the bottle is transported. The collar, 5, protects the mouth of the bottle from collections of dust, etc.

tion is, when boiled, intended for washing out the conjunctival *cul-de-sac*, thus mechanically cleansing the surface of the mucous membrane.

The solutions are boiled in these bottles; the bottles must, therefore, be blown, not cast in a mold. The bottle is fashioned on a small scale after the one devised by myself for syringing out cortical matter after cataract extraction (see *Transactions of the American Ophthalmological Society*, 1892, p. 455).

Dimensions.—Tray for instruments, five inches wide, six inches long. The rack for the instruments is detachable. The case containing boiler, lamp, etc., is eight inches long, five inches wide, and an inch and five sixteenths deep.

In preparing instruments for an operation, boiling water is poured directly from the kettle into the boiler, and the instruments (except the cataract knife and keratome, which are simply dipped several times in the boiling water and repeatedly firmly wiped with absorbent cotton) are boiled for three minutes. The tray containing the instruments is then lifted out of the water, the latter at the same time running back into the boiler through the perforated bottom in the tray. The tray, covered, is laid on a clean towel on the table, and in a few seconds the instruments are cool and ready for use.

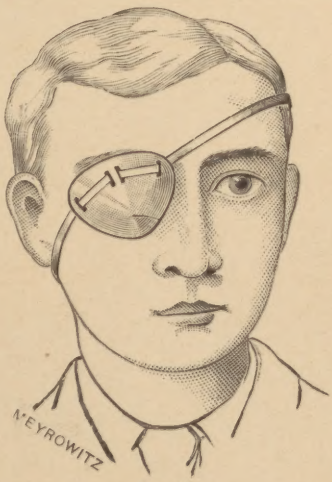

FIG. E.

The shield, represented in Fig. E, is designed to protect the eye against injury after cataract extraction, etc. Being made of thin sheet aluminium, it is very light, and readily bent, if necessary, to adapt it to the shape of the head.

The gauze or flannel bandage having been applied, the shield is held in place over this by means of a tape which passes through the apertures in its upper part, no sewing being necessary for this purpose.

The apparatus is manufactured by Messrs. Bramhall, Deane, & Co., 264 Water Street, New York, and E. C. Meyrowitz, West Twenty-third Street, who also manufacture the shield.

9 West Twenty-second Street.